



Volume 24

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

March 2015

Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

## They Are Here!

*By Sue Robins AF6LJ, Pictures By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ*

At the March meeting we were introduced to the two new Yaesu repeaters to upgrade and bring the ARCEC communications into the twenty first century. The club purchased a pair of Yaesu DR-1 repeaters as part of a system upgrade. The original VHF and UHF machines were modified Motorola Mitrek mobile radios pressed into repeater service. This was a very common and straight forward means of building a low cost repeater system. Thousands of these radios were converted and pressed into repeater and remote base service in the 80's and 90's. Modifying commercial two-way radio gear for amateur use is a time honored practice and goes back to the roots of amateur radio.

Time marches on; and ARCEC decided to upgrade our communications system giving us more flexibility and greater utilization of our repeater channels. Still more work to do before the new gear is on the air so Stay Tuned.

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## Tower Trailer Training

*Sue Robins AF6LJ, Pictures by Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ*



March 20<sup>th</sup> ARCEC held tower trailer training, a refresher in preparation for the Baker to Vegas Ultra Marathon, a yearly event where members of public safety and law enforcement run the 120 miles from Baker California to Las Vegas Nevada. This is the second year that ARCEC members will be providing communications for the event.





With the aid of the ARCEC tower trailer communications from start to finish are possible without interruption. Communications in events like this are critical not only to the success of the event but critical to the lives of the runners in the event someone experiences physical distress during the event. For more information about the Baker to Vegas run see <http://bakervegas.net/>

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## J-Pole Clinic

*By Sue Robins AF6LJ, pictures by Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ, and Sue Robins AF6LJ*

At the March ARCEC meeting another in a continuing series of “hands On” presentations was held. This hands on presentation was on the construction of a J-Pole antenna for 146 and 440 MHZ. Club members assembled roll up J-Pole antennas that can be used both for portable and fixed operation. The J-Pole antenna is one of the most popular homebrew projects in amateur radio.

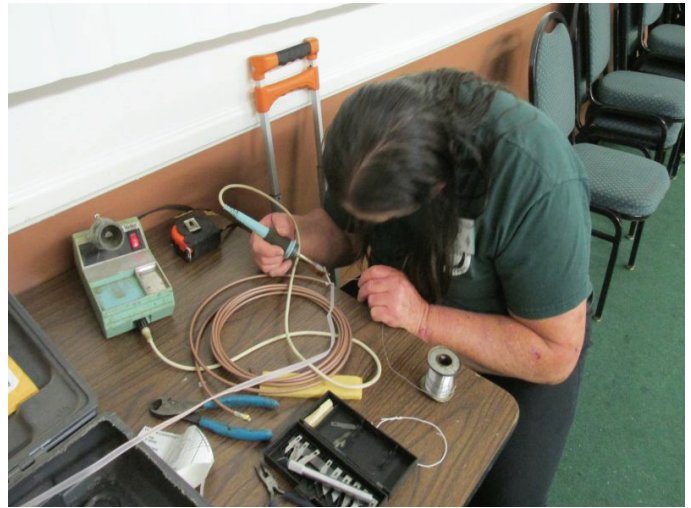
This type of presentation is well received among the membership, the general consensus is to have more of this type of presentation. One of the roles of a radio club is education and skillset building. Building antennas brings one closer to a more complete understanding of how radio works.

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## Next Month's Meeting

Don Dodson KI6GZK will present a program on EMCOMM Message handling, hope to see you there.

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## ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



# Antenna Party

*By Dave Ward KD6DW, Edited By Sue Robins AF6LJ*

On Monday March 16th there was an antenna assembly party. Joe KG7JM had bought a folding hex beam antenna from Vibroplex.com. He bought the 5 band version covering from 10-20 meters. The antenna was made by a company using "foldingantennas.com" as their website.

Among those there were Dave KD6DW, Mark KB6PJU, Virginia KK6MZG, Joe KG7JM, Inge KG7IM, Rich KK6FXR, Terry K6TRY, Phil WA6FFT, and Tom N6NUG. We started about 8:30 am and were mostly finished by about 1pm.

The kit contained everything needed, and seemed to include 1 extra of most small parts. The spreaders were made of fiberglass tubing filled with hard foam. The wire and cord were not cut to length. The parts seemed to be very good quality material. There were some plastic molded parts that Joe pre-assembled after cutting them loose from their molding tree, and cleaning them up.

The instructions were very good except for the amount of extra material they wanted left on the cord used to separate the driven elements from the reflectors. Mark soldered on the lugs used to connect the wire to the center post after we measured them to length. You start assembly after attaching the suspension cords the end Of the spreaders since, by attaching clips used to hold the wires. Then working from the center out, after attaching the wires for all 5 bands you install the 2 cords to tie everything together. The last

step is to align all the spreaders by moving the wires on the clips used to hold them to the spreaders.

When the antenna was tested sitting on the stand it had a very good sweet spot on all bands, resonant frequency seemed to be just above the cw portion of each of the bands. The antenna is now ready to erect on a mast, or you can loosen the wing nuts on the joints on the spreaders and fold them into a tight bundle about 8" diameters and 3' long, perfect for taking out to a remote location to work some dx, or going on a DX-Pedition. A nice 4' bag was included with the antenna.

links to manufacturer and distributor;  
<http://www.foldingantennas.com/>  
 Manufacturer in Germany

<http://www.vibroplex.com/>  
 Distributor

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## Operating Day at Fry's Electronics

Another Operating Day Event will be held at Fry's Electronics on May 2, 2015. Fry's Operating day is an event to expose the public to amateur radio, a chance for amateurs to show off their portable and mobile radio equipment, GO Kits and all manner of mobile, portable and remote operating. Fry's and San Diego Six Shooters are hosting the event, stay tuned for more details as the date draws near.

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## Editor's Notes

*By Sue Robins AF6LJ*

The Newsletter is running late this month, my personal life has been rather busy of late, to the point that not only is it interfering with my obligation to get Counterpoise out on time, my own amateur radio projects have been put on hold or delayed. Life has a way of getting in the way of those things we would rather be doing.

One of the projects that I have seen that enough available time has been allocated for is the moving sorting and organization part of the truly massive collection of radio gear and related items owned by Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ. The Crest Radio Museum, as Pat's collection is known by, has been consolidated into one location. Myself and others have donated time, materials and a vehicle to accomplish this undertaking. The gear has all been moved, but there is a garage full of parts, surplus gear manuals and magazines that needed to be sorted cleaned and repackaged. Much progress has been made on this project since its beginning in mid December. I have been looking forward to the weekly visits to Pat's QTH and helping to put order to things. Years of entropy are being undone a day at a time.

Have a story about helping a fellow ham? Share it with your fellow club members, send it to [counterpoise@wa6bgs.us](mailto:counterpoise@wa6bgs.us) Your content is always welcome., 73.

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## The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark Wardwell KB6PJU has been running a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF and UHF repeaters. The repeaters are linked to accommodate the needs and accessibility of all who wish to participate. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

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## Club Shirts & Jackets

We have 2013 club shirts and jackets available at meetings. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each. You can get a 2013 Field Day shirt or the standard club shirt, both styles of shirts have the club logo on the back and the left side.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

We also have a number of shirts from 2012, these shirts are identical to the 2013 shirts without the pocket, and they are available in both the standard club shirt and the 2012 Field Day shirt. Sizes are limited to stock on hand.

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The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**<sup>Inc.</sup>  
**WA6BGS**

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash    Check    Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:    Individual (\$20/year)    Family\* (\$35/year)

Membership Status:    New    Renewal    Returning Member

Call Sign    First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member:    Yes    No

License Class:    Technician    General    Extra    Other

Email Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

**Submitting this form:**

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
P.O. Box 50  
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at [www.wa6bgs.us](http://www.wa6bgs.us) which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

**Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.**

**Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.**

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